CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A method for printing on a printer that is proximal to a subscriber having access to a database registry, comprising the steps of:

maintaining the database registry on a network by way of a server computer;

registering at least two printers with the database registry;

determining a location of the subscriber using a standard location-determining device in response to receiving a request for printing of a print job from a computer of the subscriber on one of the at least two printers registered with the database registry;

determining which printer of the at least two printers is most proximal to the subscriber; and

transferring the print job from the computer to the printer that is most proximal to the subscriber.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection with the server and identifying the subscriber to the server;

determining whether the subscriber has a preference of how their location is determined; and

monitoring location request information from a GPS receiver in the computer if the preference of the subscriber is to determine their location by way of integrated GPS, otherwise requesting location information by way of the server from a cell-phone service provider using a number registered by the subscriber if the preference of the subscriber is to use a cell-phone to identify their location.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

searching a database in the server to locate a printer at the location of the subscriber.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said searching step comprises the step of:

comparing distances between the subscriber and the at least two printers to determine the printer that is most proximal to the subscriber.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said search is performed only for printers located in a zip code in which the subscriber is located.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

providing the subscriber with a message that informs the subscriber that no printers are at the location of the subscriber.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

sending a list of printer descriptions to the subscriber from the server if more than one printer is at the location of the subscriber.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber chooses the printer on which to print.

9. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

transmitting printer capability information to the computer.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the subscriber chooses the capabilities of the printer based on the transmitted printer capability information.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

choosing the capabilities of the printer based on the transmitted printer capability information; and

sending a page description to the server.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the page description requires conversion;

transmitting the page description to the printer if the page does not require conversion, otherwise converting the page description into a format suitable for printing on the printer and transmitting the converted page description to the printer if the page description requires conversion; and

printing a page on the printer.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said maintaining step comprises adding or removing printers from the database.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

automatically determining the location of the printers when adding the printers to the database.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said maintaining step comprises providing authorization for the subscriber to access the database.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

accessing the database to enroll an organization such that the organization can provide printing services;

entering details of the organization; and

storing the details of the organization in the database.

17. The method of claim 1, which comprises collecting the at least two printers into groups of related printers and classifying at least two printers into groups of related printers based on ownership of the at least two printers by specific organizations.

18. The method of claim 16, which comprises using the groups of related printers and classified groups of printers to permit or deny the subscriber access to the database.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a clusters of co-operating server computers.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the server stores information about each subscriber that is subscribed to the system, each organization offering printing services, a geographical location data, and an Internet address for the at least two printers.

21. The method of claim 20, which comprises using the geographical location data for performing comparisons and plotting positions on a map.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the geographical information is descriptive information for use by a person.

23. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

informing the subscriber that no printer is available at their location.

24. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

informing the subscriber of the printer location;

wherein the printer location comprises geographical map data.

25. The method of claim 9, wherein said choosing step comprises specifying a use of PostScript® language page description for use in printing the print job.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the standard location-determining device is one of a GPS receiver and cell-phone triangulation.

27. A system for printing on a printer that is proximal to a subscriber, comprising:

a database containing a registry of subscribers and subscribing organizations;

a network connected to the database;

a server operatively coupled to the database;

at least two printers operatively coupled to the database by way of the network; and

a subscriber interface operatively coupled to the at least two printers by way of the network and at least one of a computer and a cell-phone, a location of said subscriber being determined by way of a standard location-determining device.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

at least one organization computer connected to the network;

wherein the at least one computer is used by a subscribing organizations to access the database to enroll and enter details of the

organization into the database such that the organization can provide printing services.

29. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

subscriber user devices operatively coupled to the network for permitting access to print services.

30. The system of claim 27, wherein the standard location-determining device comprises at least one of a GPS receiver and a device for performing cell-phone triangulation.